

VACCINES = PREVENTION

The best prevention against parvo infection is to vaccinate.

There are variations of the protocol, but many vets agree that puppies should be vaccinated at 8, 12, and 16 weeks, and should not be socialized with dogs with unknown vaccine history until **after** their last vaccines. And **don't mix litters** of pups together.

It won't hurt most pups to start their vaccines at 6 weeks, and then have boosters at 9, 12 and 16 weeks. **But they will not be protected if you just get one vaccine and leave it at that.** After the initial series of shots, **your pup will need a booster one year later,** and after that the recommended booster is every three years.

If you have a dog over 6 months old and do not know whether it has vaccines, give two vaccines 3 - 4 weeks apart.

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PARVO VIRUS



**PROTECT YOUR PUPPY OR DOG
FROM A VIRUS WHICH CAN KILL**

WHAT IS PARVO?

Canine parvovirus (CPV) infection is a **highly contagious viral illness** that affects dogs. The virus first appeared in the late 1970's and is reported in most members of the canine family - for example coyotes, wolves and foxes.

The most common is the intestinal form; the symptoms are **vomiting, diarrhea, weight loss, and lack of appetite**. The disease affects the body's ability to absorb nutrients. An affected animal will quickly become dehydrated and weak from lack of protein and fluid absorption.

The majority of cases are seen in **puppies that are between six weeks and six months old** and the clinical signs can be worse if the pup has internal parasites like roundworm or coccidia.

If your pup shows these symptoms, **contact a veterinarian.**

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HOW DOES YOUR DOG GET IT?

Mainly, the virus is transmitted by direct contact with an **infected dog or infected feces**. The virus is found in an infected dog's stool, so when a healthy dog sniffs an infected dog's stool, it can contract the disease. The virus can also be brought into a dog's environment **by way of shoes that have come into contact with infected feces**.

There is evidence that the virus can live in ground soil **for up to a year**.

The virus is resistant to most cleaning products, and to weather changes. If you suspect that you have come into contact with feces at all, you will need to **wash the affected area with a diluted solution of household bleach**, the only disinfectant known to kill the virus.

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CAN IT BE TREATED?

Since the disease is a viral infection, there is **no real cure for it**. The survival rate in dogs is about 70 percent, but death may result from severe dehydration, a secondary bacterial infection, bacterial toxins in the blood, or intestinal bleeding.

Death is more common in puppies, since they have a **less developed immune system**. It is common for an infected puppy to suffer shock, and sudden death. Treatment focuses on curing the **symptoms** and preventing secondary bacterial infections, preferably in a vet hospital. But the cost of hospital care is high, and **there are some basic ways to home treat**, but always discuss all options with a vet to get the best advice for your pup's condition.

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